



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWRENCE, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Charles Thomas, Jr.**, 19, Lawrence, Kansas, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia on December 8, 2003, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren said that Thomas admitted at his plea that on April 3, 2003, officers with the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's office arrested Thomas on outstanding warrants and found 46 rocks (approximately 7.68 grams or .27 ounce) of crack cocaine, a set of electronic scales, and a bottle containing PCP on his person. The officers next searched Thomas' residence on Kentucky Street in Lawrence, Kansas, which is located within 1000 feet of Cordley Elementary School, Lawrence, Kansas, and found a plastic bag containing approximately 5.8 grams (approximately .20 ounce) of crack cocaine and other drug paraphernalia.

Thomas faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of eighty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for February 23, 2004, at 10:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.

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